In the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions.

1. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle for a metallurgic vessel arranged upstream of a casting device, ~~in particular a continuous casting mold or a twin roller, in which~~ the immersion nozzle comprising:

a slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) having a length that is several times greater than its width ~~is~~ provided in ~~the~~ a base area of the immersion nozzle; [[,]]

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the immersion nozzle has a ~~its~~ cross section that widens in the direction of ~~it's~~ a mouth area from a round inlet cross section to a mouth cross section;

the mouth cross section ~~whose~~ having one semiaxis that is smaller than a semiaxis of the round inlet cross section, and ~~whose other~~ another greater semiaxis extending perpendicular thereto that is greater than[[,]] the semiaxis of the round inlet cross section; and

wherein the ~~whose~~ base area has a shape ~~corresponds~~ corresponding to that of ~~the~~ a body of revolution of an ellipse or of an oval mouth cross section around the greater semiaxis, and ~~in that~~ the slit-shaped outlet opening extends in a direction of the greater semiaxis.

2. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mouth cross section has the shape of an ellipse.

3. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mouth cross section has the shape of a rhombus.

4. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mouth cross section has a shape combining a round cross section and ellipse-like cross section.

5. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the base area of the mouth cross section extends in an arc-shaped manner in direction of the smaller semiaxis.

6. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the base area of the mouth cross section extends in an arc-shaped manner in direction of the greater semiaxis.

7. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the transition from the circular cross section to the widened cross section is formed as a function of ~~the~~ a first degree.

8. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the transition from the circular cross section to the widened cross section is formed as a function of ~~the~~ an nth degree.

9. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) extends over the length of the entire base area.

10. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) extends in the side wall.

11. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the shape of the slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) corresponds to a rectangle.

12. (currently amended) An immersion ~~Immersion~~ nozzle according claim 1 ~~to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the width of the pour-out opening increases outward from the center.

13. (new) An immersion nozzle for a metallurigical casting device which acts as a guide for molten metal comprising:

a round inlet section located at a top end of the immersion nozzle and having a diameter oriented along a first axis;

a base area with a exit slot forming an elliptical mouth opening located at the other end of the immersion nozzle;

a top section with an increasing width towards the base area;

a bottom section with an increasing width towards the base area;

side wall sections connecting the top section to the bottom section and having a decreasing height towards the base area; and

wherein the elliptical mouth opening spans the width of the top section at the base area and further extends into the side wall sections.

14. (new) The immersion nozzle of claim 13 wherein the wherein the elliptical mouth opening shape widens a flow of the molten metal and creates a backflow outside the immersion nozzle which provides improved melting of casting powder located on the surface of a melt.